

Considerations before Changing Child Care Placement

Wondering whether a change in child care placement is in the best interest of a child in care? Consider the following before making your decision:

Stability:

- ✓ Does the child have a deep relationship with the current child care staff?
- ✓ How many child care centers has the child already attended?
 - If the child changed schools, how did that impact them?
- ✓ Is there a higher quality child care option available near the caregiver's home or work?
- ✓ How long would it take the child to get to the quality child care and how would that commute impact the child?
- ✓ Would requiring a change in child care placement cause a change in actual placement?
- ✓ What would be the added cost of changing the child to the proposed new center?
 - Are there resources to cover that cost?
- ✓ If the child has siblings, do they attend the current child care center too?
- ✓ If the child moves to a new child care center now, will they be able to remain there when they achieve their permanency goal (i.e. reunification, adoption, etc.)?
- ✓ Would a change in the child care setting delay permanency in any way?

Medical/Behavioral/Developmental/Mental Health Needs of the Child:

- ✓ What are the child's medical (i.e. does the child require breathing treatments or an allergen-free setting), developmental, behavioral health, and/or mental health needs?
- ✓ What extra supports might the child need?
- ✓ If the child needs extra supports, what interventions have already been tried?
- ✓ Does the current center have the ability to provide any needed services?
- ✓ Is the current center willing/able to allow external professionals to provide direct interventions for the child onsite, and the staff/ teacher participate in the sessions?
- ✓ If the child is already receiving support services (i.e. speech therapy), how long would it take before the service can be set up in the new center?
- ✓ Is the current child care provider willing to take trauma-informed training?

Safety:

- ✓ Does the child's current child care center have licensing violations in the last year? If so, what are they?
- ✓ Does the proposed new child care center have recent licensing violations? If so, what are they?